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The World as We Know It



117 1 5

Chapter 1 by Zack Dillon

"Open the Com-Doors!"

Corporal Dawes shouted. She was a short, stubborn woman. She had dark hair pulled into a tight bun. She also had brown eyes with tan skin. The Com-Door opened. Our air sealant sprayed a cool mist of disinfectant, water, and other things. Myself and three other soldiers swept the landing pads. We checked the trees, knowing how the sheyaks could swoop down and attack at any time. They were what was left of this god-forsaken planet they called Earth. When the nuclear wars of 3036 happened, most of the humans evacuated to the Spindola system. Most of the humans, that is. Some people got stuck, one way or another.

"WRAAAAAAAAAAAAAARK!"

I looked to the forest. I had my red dot sight pinned on a movement in the brush.

"FIRE!" Sergeant Grath shouted.

I unloaded my gun into that bush, as did the others. The sheyak fell over dead. We put our clips back in.

"Sergeant, look!" Private McCarle

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It was a whole tribe of the

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Chapter 2 by Julie

The trees were tall and full of green and purple leaves, just starting to turn over since the bright sun was high in the sky. Below these colored trees sat a girl human and near her was a group of humans, or what you could call humans. They were the ones left behind when the nuclear wars occurred so many years ago. The chemical waste that was left behind caused the left ones to be mutated in all sorts of ways. The girl human was the least affected by it with her straight purple hair and orange clay colored skin. Her arms and neck had a scaled texture that felt like smooth sand. Her legs were scaled as well but were well covered with long jagged boar leather boots. Yet she had the form of a human, with a head, torso, 2 arms, and 2 legs. She was in a daze staring at the tree tops while the human group next to her worked to examine the nearby trees and soil.

One of the humans who looked mixed with a yellow gecko was examining the leaves and sarcastically said, "So Jezza, what have you found in those treetops so far?"

Jezza quickly snapped back to what was in front of her and said bluntly, "Well Krizzo I thought for a second I saw one of your ancestors climbing a tree"

This made Krizzo laugh and Jezza stood up with a smile. A couple other humans to their right looked over at them and started to chuckle. One was 8 ft tall and had porcupine needles as hair and thick tree trunk limbs and neck. He wore a tight fitted leather shirt with cloth pants that went only to below his thigh. The individual next to him was much shorter, maybe only 3 ft and had orange feathers on the top of his head. His eyes were wide set and slit with a snake eyed look. He had no nose, only holes with a large set of lips below it. His feet were webbed like a frog and slightly bent like he was about to leap. His arms were almost normal, with a tan skin color and sharp finger nails.

The tall one said loudly "Come on, stop acting like lil ones and keep looking for those tracks"

He turned back to a set of near by bushes and the shorter one just shrugged his shoulder at Jezza and said, "I'm still not sure what the tribal leaders want us to find, this so called mission seems useless, right Chiro?"

He looked over at the giant named Chiro for his opinion but all Chiro did was shrug and keep looking through the bushes. Jezza said to everyone, "We do as they say since they are the wise ones, they know better than us. Why stop listening now? so keep looking Jinka"

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Jinka, the shorter one, just frowned and turned to his left to look at some weeds and soil, trying to ignore Jezza.

Jezza looked at Krizzo and raised her eyebrows but turned to look at the spot where she was sitting before. The tribal elders from her town had sent them to this mission to find some tracks leading to an object that fell from the skys. They said they witnessed it a couple weeks ago but nobody else in the town saw this happen. Yet with their knowledge and experience they were worried it was a bad omen and so sent a couple of rangers to check it out.

Rangers were experienced in the trails and tracks of the forest, they understood the things that dwelled in these trees and soil. They thought it best they went since they are unlikely to get lost with their skills.

Yet Jezza doubted they would find anything, there was no disturbance in the earth around her and the things that prowled the forest did not seem scared or in defense of anything. But, they looked anyways just to quiet the tribal elders worried thoughts.

Jezza was smoothing away some sparkling ferns when she felt a stillness in the air. She looked up and stared at the others, who were all looking around also. They all noticed the change in the environment, something dangerous was around them and they need to hide for safety. Jezza quickly crouched lower to the ground and shuffled over to a gaping tree on her left. She looked over at the others and waved them over but they seemed to have all found a hiding spot already.

She slipped inside and waited for what was to come when she suddenly heard some scrapping in the treetops above them. She recognized the sounds, the slashing and swinging. They were the sounds of the Sheyaks, the most dangerous creatures on this land. She froze and quieted her breathing so as not to draw attention to herself.

Why were they so close to her town? They were but 15 miles away from the outskirts and the Sheyaks were usually thousands of miles away, usually resting in the deserted forest of reekers.

She could hear them scrapping by on the trees and the purring of their quiet chills. This was not good, she had to tell the village elders. They were looking for a tribe raid incase they got any closer to the town.

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Jezza looked outside quickly and saw the rangers were moving away from the town towards the west where the village elders said the object fell from the sky. Does that

mean the elders were right and they really saw something? Maybe the Shekays have seen it also and gone to investigate but what ever the reason, the farther they are from her town the better.

She looked at her group and saw that they were all well hidden and quiet, thats good. The group waited for 20 minutes after the last Shekays went by to make sure they did not come out and be spotted by any stragglers. Jezza and the others quickly gathered up and whispered what they saw.

Jezza pointed back tot he town and said quietly, " we need to go back and report this to the elders so we are prepared in case of a raid"

But Chiro shook his thick neck and said pointedly, " we can do that and its a good idea, safety is best for the town"

Chiro went to turn towards the direction of the town but Jinka suddenly said, " But think about it, our mission was to track the object that fell, I think the Sheyaks are going to it too, maybe we just follow to see?"

He looked questionably at the group but only Krizzo nodded. Krizzo agreed and whispered, " I think Jinka is right, thats our mission, why not complete that and see if its true then go back and tell the elders everything we saw?"

Jinka carried on saying, " Yea, so we hit two jaggar boars with one spear" He smiled waiting for Chiro and Jezza to agree.

Jezza saw the point they were making but Chiro flat out shook his head. Jezza looked at Chiro and said to him, " Come on, they have a point Chiro, we can just follow slowly behind and leave if anything dangerous occurs, we need this" She smiled at Chiro but he still frowned.

Chiro just looked at the group and realized he was out-voted; he just shook his head and said quietly, " Fine, but you guys owe me some fire ant candies when we get back home"

Jezza and the group all patted shoulders and followed the group of sheyaks

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After following the large group of Sheyaks for an hour Jezza suddenly noticed a shiny object off in the distance. The trees still covered the rest but she distinctly noticed a point shiny object halfway protruding at the treetops . She stopped the rest of the group and waved for them to look up at the object. They all quietly examined it and shook their head, so the village elders were correct, something did fall.

While they were doing this they suddenly heard the Sheyaks shriek. It was loud and Jezza suddenly heard what sounded like a thousand thunderbolts sound after it. Jezza and the others quickly caught up to the Sheyaks and ran to the right of the horde. They looked out of a batch of bushes and started at where the noise came from.

Jezza saw the shiny object in full view now, it was taller then any building she has ever seen. It was massive in size and almost as shiny as the rising sun, burning her eyes as she tried to look for more details. Yet she suddenly noticed some small figures in front of a giant opening in the front of the object.

Jezza looked more intensely and thought, other humans? what are they doing this far out?

One of the figures suddenly called out, "Sergeant, look!"

Suddenly to the left of her, Jezza saw the whole horde of Sheyaks running out of the forest at the humans.

Chiro looked back at Jezza and whispered, " Should we help them Jezza?"

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